Chapter 4: STUDY AREA

Study Area

1. Introduction
2. Geology

Drainage basins/hydrological system?

i. Environment

1. Study area covers XXX square miles full of forests, caves, rockshelters, plateaus offering panoramic vistas from Terrasson at the limits of the Perigord to Limeuil, and from Rouffignac to Sarlat. Abrupt gorges, dense plateaus, and high topographic relief (Sisk from Laville et al. 1980)
2. Topographic relief and landscape variability create a kaleidoscope of environmental characteristics
3. Lies within the Périgord region in the department of the Dordogne
4. Soil variability and formation
5. Environmental zones

v. Climate (see Laville and Roebroeks (?))

1. RAINY
2. Microenvironments in valleys

vi. Population and Economy (see Higounet ed. 1978)

1. Made up of 46? Communes
   a. Commune administrative district
   b. Ancient communes (see Spéléo Dordogne 44)
2. Rural (see Fénelon 1954)
   a. Farming main use of land

(i). Historically much more land used for farming; greater variety of farming

1. Reforestation efforts (show historic aerial images compared to modern day)

(i). Impact on archaeology

1. Development mainly for tourist developments
2. Quarrying
3. Historical Background (see Higounet ed. 1978)
   i. Within count du perigord influence but tenuous (look at local lords for power?)
1. Archaeological Evidence (see Higounet ed. 1978, Fenelon 1954)
   i. Knowledge of sites and methods of travels

1. No rigorous study
2. Prior to 1874
3. 1874 creation of SHAP
   a. small sondages
   b. local publication (lots of material)
   c. VERY informative for private land finds
4. lots of excavation for railroad
5. 1945 creation of Direction archéologiques régionales